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CIA Faces Probe on Aid to Students

Sentinel Washington Bureau
Washington, D. C.—A federal investigation of the central intelligence agency's involvement in American education was ordered Wednesday by President Johnson.

The directive was disclosed by Undersecretary of State Katzenbach, who will direct the review. John W. Gardner, secretary of health, education and welfare, and CIA Director Richard Helms will take part.

The president's move followed disclosure of clandestine CIA financial support for 15 years, ending Jan. 1, of the National Student association (NSA), the largest and oldest college student organization in the United States.

A house committee announced plans for its own investigation.

Wisconsin's three Democratic congressmen Wednesday had

joined in the growing demand for the investigation.

Representatives Reuss, Kastenmeier and Zablocki said they were shocked by the admission Tuesday of NSA and state department officials that the student group's operations have been secretly underwritten by the CIA since 1952.

Reuss called the CIA's covert support of the country's largest college student organization "immoral and illegal."

He pointed out in a house floor speech that the NSA was founded 20 years ago on the University of Wisconsin, campus in Madison, "by a group of young idealistic men and women."

Student governments at 300 colleges and universities, representing 1,500,000 students, are now affiliated with the NSA, Reuss said.

"It is ironic that the NSA,

which has been in the forefront for liberal causes such as the civil rights struggle and the preservation of academic freedom, which in its early days had to fight the label 'Communist front' organization that right wing groups attempted to impose on it, should now be revealed as a captive of the central intelligence agency," Reuss said.

Kastenmeier and seven other Democratic congressmen Tuesday had demanded a full investigation "at the highest level" in a letter to President Johnson.

Kastenmeier said Wednesday that he was "gratified" that Mr. Johnson had appointed Katzenbach to head the probe. He said the investigation should cover allegations that the CIA had arranged draft deferments for NSA leaders.

The disclosure has "severely damaged" the NSA's status and

prestige and has perhaps impaired its effectiveness in dealing with similar organizations in other countries, he said.

"Today, many NSA officers and members are in a state of shock over this," Kastenmeier said.

Zablocki said the fact that the CIA has secretly provided up to three million dollars to finance the NSA since 1952 "clearly indicates the need for closer congressional scrutiny" of the sprawling intelligence agency.

Zablocki for years has called for creation of a joint congressional committee, similar to the congressional joint atomic energy committee, to oversee the operations of the government's intelligence agencies.

Zablocki's bill, unsuccessful thus far, may gain additional supporters as a result of the NSA incident.

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